

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00453 150400Z
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 H-02 /008 W
-----062524 150405Z /13
O 082200Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5720

UNCLAS BELIZE 0453

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES (SMITH, DONALD AND EDWARD J.)
SUBJ: PRESUMED DEATH OF EDWARD AND DONALD SMITH

REF: STATE 151831, 163130

1. EDWARD SMITH ARRIVED IN BELIZE WITH FRIEND ON MORNING OF JUNE 30. HE WAS INTRODUCED BY CONSULAR OFFICER TO POLICE OFFICIALS WORKING ON CASE AND TO THOSE INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE PARTY. A TEAM OF DIVERS HAD BEEN SENT JUNE 29 TO SEARCH FOR THE SONS, WHO WERE LOST IN THE BLUE HOLE AT LIGHTHOUSE REEF ABOUT 40 MILES OFF SHORE.

2. THE CONSULATE GENERAL ARRANGED FOR MR. SMITH TO RENT A HELICOPTER FROM ESSO OIL COMPANY EXPLORATION TEAM. HE FLEW OVER THE BLUE HOLE ON JULY 1 AND JULY 2, WHILE THE TEAM OF DIVERS CONTINUED TO SEARCH UNDERWATER. OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARRIVED AT THE SITE JULY 3 AND WERE TO SEARCH FOR A FEW DAYS. NO TRACE OF THE BODIES WAS FOUND.

3. MOST DIVING EXPERTS HERE BELIEVE THE BODIES SHOULD SURFACE WITHIN THREE TO SEVEN DAYS AFTER DEATH. SINCE THE SONS WERE LOST ON JUNE 26, THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO HOPE THAT BODIES WILL BE FOUND. ONE TEAM OF DIVERS SAW A GROUP OF AGGRESSIVE SHARKS AND IT IS POSSIBLE THE BODIES HAVE BEEN EATEN BY THE SHARKS.

4. MR. SMITH PLANS TO RETURN TO U.S. AFTERNOON OF JULY 7.
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IF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, POST WILL NOTIFY MR. SMITH AND DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.
GAWF

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELIZE00453
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770251-1216
Format: TEL
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770779/aaaacqwx.tel
Line Count: 58
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Subject: PRESUMED DEATH OF EDWARD AND DONALD SMITH
TAGS: CDES, BH, (SMITH, DONALD), (SMITH, EDWARD J)
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